



303 N. Evers St.
Plant City FL 33563
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday
9 AM-12 PM & 1 PM-4 PM
(813) 754-3519
firstchurchplantcity.com

THE VINE 
Week of: June 28 - July 4, 2020

Sunday, June 28th, 2020
In-Person 9 AM and 11 AM services will both be held in the Sanctuary.

First United Methodist Church: Relaunch Information

A relaunch plan has been organized around the CDC, State of Florida, and Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church guidelines for reopening safely during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The 9 AM and 11 AM services will **both** be held in the Sanctuary. The Wesley Center will be closed.

ONLY TWO entrances to the Sanctuary will be accessible:

- **The main entrance on Evers Street**
- **The elevator entrance (red doors) on Wheeler Street**
 - **The Mahoney Street entrance will be CLOSED**

Social distancing will be implemented with alternate pews being closed. Please sit with only those in your household and *separate groups by at least 6 feet*. Individuals should continue social distancing with anyone who does not live in close contact on a regular basis. Temperature checks will be required upon entry, with the threshold temperature 99.5 degrees or lower. Hand sanitizer will be provided at both available entrances, the front entrance on Evers street and the red door on Wheeler street. Face masks will be required for the safety of all those in attendance.

Disposable masks and gloves will be available at each entrance for those in need. The elevator will be accessible through the red doors on Wheeler, but will be regulated for optimum safety and social distancing. For further questions or concerns, please call the church office at (813) 754-3519.

Online Worship Service

Our goal is to continue providing a regular, weekly online worship service including a sermon, music, readings and prayer. As we enter this re-opening stage in the State of Florida, First United Methodist Church is going to take it slow with in-person worship; implementing safe hygiene requirements and cleaning procedures for limited capacity, in-person worship each Sunday at 9 AM & 11 AM in the Sanctuary of our church.

So many of our congregation are still unable to be out around a lot of people due to high risk factors for contracting COVID-19. We have children who are still unable to meet, since kids really do not do social distancing well regardless of the policies in place, and this is a way to offer them a worship service experience that appeals to them. Our older members are also benefited by a well-organized, quality online service, since they are most likely to stay home, for now. And can I just say that we had a ton of people step up to help their family and friends get comfortable online when they may not have been before the pandemic began, so thank you!

Our online service will continue for the foreseeable future, as we have seen the impact it has on the community. Rest assured First United Methodist Church of Plant City is here to be the church in all the ways we can.

Jennifer Kramer
Director of Church Activities & Outreach



Tithes and offerings are being accepted online through members.myEoffering.com or you can mail your contributions to:
303 N. Evers St. Plant City, FL 33563

Weekly Devotional: June 28, 2020

A Message from Pastor Dennis

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell the disciples. (Matthew 28:8)

We find in this Scripture that it is possible to be joyful and afraid at the same time. When the angel told the women who came to the tomb that Jesus had risen from the dead, they were “afraid yet filled with joy.” As we continue to face the challenges today which are life changing, remember.....that same Jesus lives with us today so do not let the fear keep you from experiencing the joy of His loving presence today.

Do not struggle with the window which has closed, but look for the window which has opened. Seek with joy the opportunity God has provided. In verse 9, Jesus meets the women along the way and tells them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” We must strive not to be afraid of the future. Let us forge ahead and tell the world that victory is ours.....no matter what. There is a great old song entitled “I’ll Tell the World That I’m a Christian.” Let that spirit live within us today powered by the Holy Spirit which came upon all of us on the day of Pentecost.



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THE UPPER ROOM

The July-August Upper Room devotionals are available inside the red door on the Northwest corner of the Traditional building. You can either pick up a copy at your convenience or call our front office at (813) 754-3519 and ask us to mail you a copy if you are unable to venture out at this time.



We have truly gifted musicians that have come together to continue providing spirit-moving worship music, even in quarantine. They record their part at home, listening to the same track through earbuds to stay together and in the same key, and then upload them to a shared drive. If you want to participate, send an email to music.fumcpc@gmail.com.



Plant City Food Bank sent out an urgent call for donations. The demand for their services has increased tremendously. How you can participate in a church-wide food drive to take to PC Food Bank: Many of us want to reach out to those who are in need and feel pretty helpless with the social distancing.

If you are able to purchase a few extra items each week while grocery shopping, the help will be appreciated. If everyone gave a few things we could make a big impact. If you find yourself driving past the church on an essential outing and you have non-perishable goods to donate, a drop off spot will be available outside the Red Door on the northwest side of the traditional building Monday through Thursday. If you cannot participate, please do not feel obligated.

Shelf stable items are needed. Recommendations: peanut butter, jelly, cereals, pasta, rice, pasta sauce, canned meats. Volunteers are willing to pick up goods from the church and deliver donations to the PC Food Bank. Tip: Order your groceries and pick them up curbside to avoid contact with people. For more information please contact Kathy Baker at kathryn953@verizon.net

Hillsborough County

Office of Neighborhood Relations

Hillsborough County has a new toll-free line dedicated for COVID-19 coronavirus testing only, a move that should alleviate wait times and reduce dropped calls. The new number to call to make an appointment at any of the County's seven testing sites is (888) 513-6321. Call center hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. The change to the new number is effective immediately.

Unprecedented call volume has recently increased wait times for callers. Hillsborough County has added more staff to handle calls, and the new toll-free number is expected to alleviate technical issues and problems with dropped calls.

Residents can undergo testing at one of seven locations. The County also offers in-home testing for homebound residents or residents without access to transportation. Appointments are required for the free testing. No doctor's referral is needed, and insurance is not required.

Testing sites include the following:

- Lee Davis Community Resource Center, 3402 N. 22nd St., Tampa
- Plant City Community Resource Center, 307 N. Michigan Ave., Plant City
- SouthShore Community Resource Center, 201 14th Ave. SE, Ruskin
- Suncoast Community Health Centers, 313 S. Lakewood Drive, Brandon
- Raymond James Stadium, 4201 N. Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa
- Redeemer Lutheran Church, 701 Valley Forge Blvd., Sun City Center
- Wimauma Opportunity Center, 5128 SR 674

Get Connected. Stay Alert.

For more information on COVID-19, and any other potential emergency in the county, visit [HCFLGov.net/StaySafe](https://www.hcflgov.net/StaySafe) and sign up for the HCFL Alert system. Additionally, you can follow Hillsborough County on social media at Facebook, Twitter, and Nextdoor for updates. For general County information, call (813) 272-5900, the County's main information line.